

19th Jan. 1779

Gentlemen,

The Provision which has been made for the Relief of the Poor of Boston, is a Testimony of that watchful ^{Zeal} Benevolence, which has long since characterized its Inhabitants. To be Deprived of the Means of immediately forwarding the Execution of their generous Design, is a most painful Situation, which afflicts me to a Degree, which their own Feelings will make them conceive better than I can describe it, but, the present State of the public Stores disabled me from indulging the Pleasure, which the full Gratification of their Request would afford me. I shall do every Thing in my Power, as soon as the expected Supplies arrive, to evince the Sincerity of this Declaration.

The Politeness with which, in Town Meeting, they have expressed their Satisfaction in seeing me ^{at the Head of the Eastern Department,} ~~honoured with the Command~~ of the Army in this Department, is to me an additional Motive for not being remiss in my Attention to prove myself, on all Occasions, a Citizen, as well as a Soldier.

Providence having been pleased to favour that Part of the
Army with the Command of which I was entrusted, against our Enemies,
I never can forget how much I am indebted to the Intrepidity and
Fortitude of the Officers and Soldiers of this State, for the little
Reputation I may have acquired. Gratitude and Humanity will
urge me to neglect no Opportunity for relieving their distressed Brethren,
whenever it shall be compatible with the Good of the Service.

Boston January 19th. 1779.

Horatio Gates

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Answer to a Committee
of Town Meeting Boston
19th Jan^{ry} 1779 —

Gen. Gage

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